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## LETTERS

ROLL CALL Thursday, October 16, 2003

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### CBC's Thanks

I was pleased that you mentioned the House Administration Committee's recent Minority Procurement Workshop in your Sept. 24 story "Partisanship Infiltrates House Admin Panel." I would like to comment further on this extraordinary event.

When Rep. John Larson (D-Conn.) appeared before a Congressional Black Caucus meeting soon after taking over as ranking member of the committee in February, several CBC members expressed concerns that minority businesses were not getting a fair share of procurement contracts awarded by Congress and they had trouble finding information about them. Larson promised to do what he could to remedy this situation and immediately started planning the workshop. Ultimately, Larson expanded the event to include the Congressional Hispanic and Asian-Pacific American caucuses, as well as the GOP members of the committee.

Two hundred twenty minority business leaders from across the country attended the Minority Procurement Workshop, which was held on Sept. 16. It was a truly bi-

partisan event. I am proud to say that the members of the CBC invited more than 100 businesses to attend the workshop.

Both Democrats and Republicans worked together to help clarify the legislative procurement process for minority business leaders. This was a great step forward in creating a more diverse contractor workforce for Congressional projects. As Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's (D-Calif.) representative stated at her lunchtime address to the workshop, the massive Capitol Visitor Center under construction outside the leader's windows constantly reminds Pelosi of the need to ensure that minority contractors are fairly represented in Congressional construction contracts. This was part of the charge Pelosi gave to Reps. Larson, Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Calif.) and Rep. Robert Brady (D-Pa.) when she named them to the House Administration Committee.

I am very grateful to the members of the panel for their effort, and I congratulate them on their hard work.

**Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.)**

**Chairman**

**Congressional Black Caucus**

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